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October 31, 2003 DOCKET ROOM

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VIA HAND DELIVERY

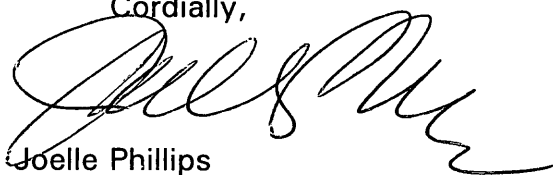
Hon. Deborah Taylor Tate, Chairman  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37238

Re: *Generic Docket Addressing Rural Universal Service*  
Docket No. 00-00523

Dear Chairman Tate:

Enclosed are the original and fourteen copies of the *Update on Status of Discussions with ICOs, BellSouth and CMRS Providers*. Copies of the enclosed are being provided to counsel of record.

Cordially,



Joelle Phillips

JJP:ch

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
Nashville, Tennessee

In Re: *Generic Docket Addressing Rural Universal Service*

Docket No. 00-00523

**UPDATE ON STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS  
WITH ICOS, BELL SOUTH AND CMRS PROVIDERS**

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and the Coalition of Rural Independent Companies ("ICOs") jointly file this update regarding the status of continuing negotiations regarding CMRS originated traffic transiting BellSouth's network and terminating to ICO end-users.

Since the last status report, the ICOs and CMRS providers have engaged in further negotiations regarding a mutually acceptable interconnection agreement. Although these negotiations are ongoing, the parties have not yet reached agreement on each of the issues under discussion. We note that the arbitration window opened on October 12, 2003 and closes on November 6, 2003.

BellSouth and the ICOs continue to address associated issues related to the physical interconnection through which CMRS traffic transits BellSouth's network prior to being terminated by the ICOS. BellSouth is preparing a draft agreement to address these transit issues, and plans to present this draft by November 14, 2003.

In addition to the discussion relating to CMRS and ICO interconnection agreements, the parties have also continued to discuss the fact that the interim

arrangement for compensation, set forth in the joint motion by BellSouth and the ICO Coalition dated May 2, 2003, expired at the end of July, 2003. As noted in earlier updates, the parties have made various offers relating to future compensation at the expiration of this current arrangement. Negotiations are continuing regarding this matter. All parties have reserved all rights to present any arguments relating to the treatment of CMRS originated traffic transiting the BellSouth network after expiration of the interim agreement in the event no agreement is reached.

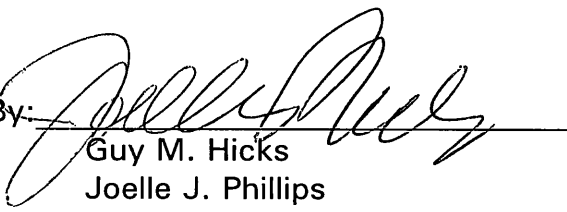
BellSouth and the ICOs also continue to discuss primary carrier plan issues.


The parties renewed their joint request that BellSouth's Petition for Reconsideration relating to the Primary Carrier Plan matters be held in abeyance for an additional sixty (60) days as the parties continue to negotiate regarding those matters.

Respectfully submitted,

BELLSOUTH  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

COALITION OF RURAL  
INDEPENDENT COMPANIES

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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 31, 2003, a copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties of record, via the method indicated:

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